

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 10087 171509Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01
PRS-01 USIA-06 SS-15 NSC-05 /055 W
-----091520 172316Z /66
R 171436Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7511
INFO US MISSION USUN NEW YORK 1567
US MISSION GENEVA 1072

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTIAGO 10087

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: SHUM, SREF, CI
SUBJ: IMMINENT RELEASE OF HIGH INTEREST POLITICAL PRISONER -
ARTURO VILAVELLA

REF: A) SANTIAGO 9869 (NOTAL, B) STATE 272840 C) STATE 290400(NOTAL)

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED WORD FROM TWO RELIABLE SOURCES THAT
ARTURO VILAVELLA ARAUJO WILL BE UNCONDITIONALLY RELEASED
FROM DETENTION WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. VILAVELLA, AN
EX-MIR LEADER WITH A MEDICAL PROBLEM (REF A), HAS BECOME
A CAUSE CELEBRE INTERNATIONALLY. HE WAS ONE OF FIVE HIGH
INTEREST CASES RAISED IN REF B AND THE SUBJECT OF A SEPARATE
CABLE (REF C).

2. THE RED CROSS AND NORWEIGAN EMBASSY HAVE TAKEN THE LEAD
IN SEEKING A RESOLUTION OF VILAVELLA'S SITUATION. WE HAVE
JUST LEARNED FROM THEM THAT VILAVELLA IS EXPECTED TO BE
RELEASED WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. HE WILL PROBABLY TRAVEL
TO NORWAY.

3. VILAVELLA IS IN SATISFACTORY HEALTH BUT FURTHER
SURGERY FOR HIS GALLBLADDER PROBLEMS MAY BE IN ORDER.
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PAGE 02 SANTIA 10087 171509Z

AWARE OF EXAGGERATED CLAIMS ABOUT VILAVELLA CIRCULATING
ABROAD, THE GOC HAD BEEN RELUCTANT TO LET HIM GO UNTIL
WHATEVER MEDICAL TREATMENT INDICATED HAD BEEN COMPLETED
AND HIS HEALTH WAS GOOD. VILAVELLA, HOWEVER, PURPORTEDLY
FEARED HE WOULD BE KILLED ON THE OPERATING TABLE. PRE-
SUMABLE HE WAS ALSO AWARE OF HIS STRONG NEGOTIATING POSITION.

4. COMMENT: THE GOC WILL HAVE TAKEN A WISE DECISION IF
IT FREES VILAVELLA. WITHIN CHILE THE CASE HAS BEEN
CHAMPIONED QUIETLY AND DISCREETLY BY THE ICRC, AND THE
GOC HAS COME TO RELY MORE AND MORE ON THE RED CROSS FOR
DISPASSIONATE TREATMENT OF CHILE'S HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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